

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-313***

***JULY 5, 2006***

***Operations and Services***

***Marine And Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-3***

***SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supersedes NWSI 10-313, dated December 23, 2004. This directive includes the following changes:

1. Modification to the use of the Special Marine Warning (SMW) headline in other marine products. The inclusion of a SMW within the Coastal Water Forecast (CWF), Great Lakes Open Lakes (GLF), or Nearshore Marine Forecast (NSH) is no longer permitted.
2. Modification to the period length of events that may be included in the SMW. The SMW may be issued for a maximum period of 2 hours.
3. New guidance for product content of the SMW when a Tornado Watch is in effect for the marine area.
4. Added: Non-convective wind events (less than or equal to 2 hours) allowed for Special Marine Warnings.

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signed

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June 21, 2006

Dennis H. McCarthy  
Director, Office of Climate,  
Water, and Weather Services

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Date

**SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS**

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1. Introduction. This procedural instruction provides detailed information on a product Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) and Weather Service Offices (WSOs) issue concerning ongoing or imminent marine weather hazards. The Special Marine Warning (SMW) product provides the marine community with vital information to protect life and property.
2. Special Marine Warning (product category SMW).
  - 2.1 Mission Connection. The Special Marine Warning product is used to provide specific details that aid in the protection of life and property. WFO forecasters and WSO forecasters issue special marine warnings for their coastal marine zones or Great Lakes marine zones to provide advanced notice to mariners of potentially hazardous weather conditions. SMWs are not issued for Offshore or High Seas areas, except in designated areas along the East Coast.
  - 2.2 Issuance Guidelines.
    - 2.2.1 Creation Software. WFOs use the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) WarnGen Application to issue the Special Marine Warning (SMW) product. WSOs issue the SMW with regionally approved software.
    - 2.2.2 Issuance Criteria. WFOs and WSOs should issue the Special Marine Warning product for short-duration (up to 2 hours) sustained marine thunderstorm winds or associated gusts of 34 knots or greater; and/or hail 3/4 inch or more in diameter; and/or waterspouts. Forecasters should also issue the SMW for non-convective short duration winds of 34 knots or greater (gale force or stronger).
    - 2.2.3 Issuance Time. The SMW product is non-scheduled and event-driven.
    - 2.2.4 Valid Time. The SMW product is valid from the time of issuance until the expiration time.
    - 2.2.5 Universal Geographic Code (UGC). The Special Marine Warning product will contain marine-based zone UGC codes.
    - 2.2.6 Product Expiration Time. The product expiration time should not exceed 2 hours beyond issuance time. A new SMW should be issued if the event is expected to continue past two hours beyond issuance time.
  - 2.3 Technical Description. The Special Marine Warning product will follow the format and content described in this section.
    - 2.3.1 Mass News Disseminator Broadcast Line. The SMW product should include the broadcast line "BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED." If a state does not require EAS activation for the SMW product, the broadcast line will read "BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED." The term "BULLETIN" is used when information is sufficiently urgent to warrant breaking into a normal broadcast.

2.3.2 Mass News Disseminator (MND) Header. The SMW MND Header is “SPECIAL MARINE WARNING”.

2.3.3 Content. The SMW product will be issued in standard bullet format, as outlined in NWSI 10-1701, *Text Product Formats and Codes*.

Storm motion should be expressed in knots (kt). Wind speed will be expressed in knots (kt).

SMWs may be issued while a Small Craft Advisory (any type), Gale, Storm or Hurricane Force Wind Warning (not associated with a tropical cyclone warning) is in effect. When a tropical cyclone warning is in effect, SMWs should only be issued for waterspouts.

For events impacting both land and water, separate warnings will be issued. SMWs will not include any portion of adjacent land areas.

2.3.4 Call To Action Statement. The Tornado Watch number may be included in the Call to Action section of the SMW product when a Tornado Watch is in effect for the area. See first example in Appendix A.

2.3.5. Format. The format of the SMW can be seen in Figure 1. The SMW is a non-segmented product. Please reference NWSI 10-1702, *Universal Geographic Code (UGC)*, for additional information on product segmentation. For detailed VTEC information, please reference NWSI 10-1703, *Valid Time Event Code (VTEC)*. For more detailed product format information consult NWSI 10-1701, *Text Product Formats and Codes*.

This product is available in industry standard encoding and languages, and may include, but not be limited to, American Standard Code for Information Interchange, Extensible Markup Language, Wireless Markup Language and HyperText Markup Language.

<p>(WMO HEADER) (UTC ISSUANCE DATE TIME)          (AWIPS ID)          (AREAL UGC CODE[S])-(EXPIRATION TIME)-          (VTEC STRING)</p> <p>BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED          SPECIAL MARINE WARNING          NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY)(STATE)          (ISSUANCE TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE)(DAY)(DATE)</p> <p>THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...(MARINE FORECAST AREA AFFECTED)</li> <li>• UNTIL (ENDING EFFECTIVE TIME)</li> <li>• AT (TIME)...(DESCRIPTION OF STORM EVENT, MOVEMENT)</li> <li>• PATHCAST (Optional; include if storm impacts are not mentioned for affected locations/landmarks in the above section/bullet.)</li> </ul> <p>CALL TO ACTION STATEMENT</p> <p>LAT...LON (Mandatory list of latitude/longitude points outlining the forecaster-drawn polygon in WarnGen)</p> <p>\$\$          FORECASTER NAME (Optional)</p>
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Figure 1. Special Marine Warning (SMW) Format

2.4 Updates, Amendments and Corrections. Updates and amendments are not applicable. WFOs and WSOs will reissue a Special Marine Warning for significant grammatical errors, or format errors in marine zones already covered by a warning. WFOs and WSOs will issue a Marine Weather Statement, as described in NWSI 10-314, to provide the public with follow-up information or to cancel all or part of an SMW.

**APPENDIX A - Examples of Special Marine Warnings:**

WHUS51 KLWX 171930  
SMWLWX  
ANZ530-531-172130-  
/O.NEW.KLWX.MA.W.0011.050517T1930Z-050517T2130Z/

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE MD/WASHINGTON DC  
330 PM EDT TUE MAY 17 2005

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN STERLING VIRGINIA HAS ISSUED A

\* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM POOLES ISLAND TO SANDY POINT MD...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY NORTH OF POOLES ISLAND MD...

\* UNTIL 530 PM EDT

\* AT 323 PM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED  
SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS FROM 23 MILES NORTHWEST OF CARROLL ISLAND  
TO 20 MILES NORTHWEST OF BALTIMORE HARBOR.

\* THUNDERSTORMS WILL PASS NEAR...  
BALTIMORE HARBOR...TAYLOR ISLAND...SPESUTIE ISLAND...

MARINERS CAN EXPECT WIND GUSTS OVER 35 KT...LARGE HAIL...LOCALLY HIGH  
WAVES...DANGEROUS LIGHTNING AND HEAVY DOWNPOURS. BOATERS SHOULD  
SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY UNTIL THIS STORM PASSES.

INTENSE LIGHTNING IS OCCURRING WITH THIS STORM. IF CAUGHT ON THE OPEN  
WATER STAY BELOW DECK IF POSSIBLE...KEEP AWAY FROM UNGROUNDED  
METAL OBJECTS.

TORNADO WATCH NUMBER 256 IN EFFECT UNTIL 500 PM EDT.

MARINERS SHOULD SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY. TAKE THE NECESSARY  
PRECAUTIONS TO SAFEGUARD LIFE AND PROPERTY.

LAT...LON 3961 7665 3916 7697 3913 7624 3969 7556

\$\$

WHUS53 KAPX 152044  
SMWAPN  
LMZ345-363-152200-  
/O.NEW.KAPX.MA.W.0002.050415T2043Z-050415T2200Z/

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GAYLORD MI  
443 PM EDT FRI APR 15 2005

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GAYLORD HAS ISSUED A

\* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...  
THE MICHIGAN WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FROM MANISTEE TO SLEEPING  
BEAR POINT...

\* UNTIL 600 PM EDT

\* AT 440 PM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED  
STRONG THUNDERSTORMS ALONG A LINE EXTENDING FROM 35 MILES SOUTH  
OF ROCK ISLAND PASSAGE TO 36 MILES NORTHWEST OF MANISTEE...MOVING  
EAST AT 40 MPH. THE THUNDERSTORMS WILL IMPACT THE NEARSHORE AND  
OPEN WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FROM MANISTEE TO FRANKFORT THROUGH  
THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON.

THESE STORMS ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING STRONG WINDS AND HAIL.  
MARINERS CAN EXPECT HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND IF POSSIBLE SHOULD  
HEAD FOR SAFE PORT IMMEDIATELY. BE SURE ALL HANDS ARE WEARING  
FLOATATION DEVICES.

LAT...LON 4480 8715 4462 8714 4460 8609 4486 8610

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WHUS52 KMFL 161332  
SMWMIA  
AMZ651-161430-

/O.NEW.KMFL.MA.W.0025.050416T1332Z-050416T1430Z/

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL  
932 AM EDT SAT APR 16 2005

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MIAMI HAS ISSUED A

\* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...  
COASTAL WATERS FROM DEERFIELD BEACH TO OCEAN REEF FL OUT 20 NM...

\* UNTIL 1030 AM EDT

\* AT 927 AM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A  
WATERSPOUT 6 MILES EAST OF FORT LAUDERDALE...MOVING SOUTHWEST AT  
10 MPH.

A REPORT OF A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS RECEIVED FROM A PILOT EAST OF FORT  
LAUDERDALE. A WEATHER OBSERVER AT POMPANO BEACH ALSO REPORTED A  
FUNNEL CLOUD 5 MILES TO THE EAST. SHOWERS OVER THE NEARSHORE  
WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING  
WATERSPOUTS THIS MORNING. BOATERS SHOULD QUICKLY MOVE AWAY FROM  
DEVELOPING WATERSPOUTS...AS THEY CAN EASILY SWAMP OR CAPSIZE SMALL  
BOATS.

LAT...LON 2610 7989 2625 7999 2621 8010 2597 8012

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